

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00 L-01 SP-02 PRS-01 /038 W

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O 261816Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4475

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2465

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISPUTE WITH PERU - FOREIGN MINISTER
OFFERS TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 055582

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR CALLED AMBASSADOR TO MINISTRY ON MARCH 25 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SECRETARY'S VISIT AND CIVAIR DISPUTE. DE LA FLOR SAID THAT MEETING OF INTERESTED CABINET MINISTERS TO REVIEW CIVAIR PROBLEM TOOK PLACE MARCH 24 AS SCHEDULED; BESIDES HIMSELF, HE MENTIONED PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ, AIR MINISTER GILARDI, AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MENESES AS PARTICIPANTS. GROUP REVIEWED MATERIAL LEFT BY AMBASSADOR WITH GILARDI MARCH 21 (LIMA 2344) WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PART 213 ACTION AND AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT BRANIFF IS PREPARED TO SEND SENIOR OFFICER WITH FULL POWERS TO PERU IMMEDIATELY TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THIS LATTER OFFER AND OUR EMPHASIS ON DESIRE TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT HAD MADE "VERY GOOD IMPRESSION" ON GROUP WHICH SHARED AND WAS PREPARED TO WORK TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE.

2. DE LA FLOR THEN ASKED THAT EMBASSY ARRANGE FOR SENIOR BRANIFF OFFICER TO COME TO PERU. THIS WEEK
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(HOLY WEEK) IS OBVIOUSLY NOT CONVENIENT, BUT TALKS

MIGHT BE ABLE TO BEGIN ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. ALL GOP WOULD REQUIRE WOULD BE "TWO OR THREE DAYS' NOTICE." THE MINISTER SAID HE HOPED AND BELIEVED SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN TWO AIRLINES, BUT, IF NOT, GOP WOULD BE FULLY PREPARED TO RESUME GOVERNMENT LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS. HE FULLY AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT BOTH SIDES BE LED BY PERSONS ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID LOWER LEVEL SKIRMISHING AND FURTHER DELAY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN REVIEWED PART 213 ACTION, REVEALING SURPRISINGLY DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO PRESIDENT FORD (PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL). HE SAID HE HOPED PRESIDENT WOULD DISAPPROVE ORDER FOR THREE REASONS: (1) IT WOULD COMPLICATE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE HOPED WOULD SOON AGAIN BE UNDERWAY; (2) IT WOULD CAUSE NEGATIVE REACTION ON PART OF GOP; AND (3) IT WOULD CREATE AN UNPLEASANT AREA OF DIFFICULTY JUST BEFORE SECRETARY'S VISIT WHICH SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

4. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF GOP'S DETERMINATION TO FIND NEGOTIATED SOLUTION AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF MINISTER'S VIEWS. HE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT BRANIFF WOULD WISH TO HAVE SENIOR OFFICER OR TEAM IN PERU EARLY NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT: DE LA FLOR'S ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT WAS FRIENDLY, AND HE GAVE EVERY APPEARANCE THAT GOP HAD INDEED DECIDED TO REACH AGREEMENT AND TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. WHAT MAY RESULT IS OF COURSE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT, BUT WE DO BELIEVE THE GOP IS GENUINELY PREPARED TO REOPEN DISCUSSION, WITH AN EYE TO REACHING AGREEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE ACTION EITHER TO STAY 213 ORDER FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD OR TO DISAPPROVE ORDER. LATTER ACTION WOULD MEET DE LA FLOR'S REQUEST (PRESUMABLY GOP'S) AND MIGHT FURTHER IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THIS OF COURSE ASSUMES THAT PART 213 ACTION CAN BE REINITIATED WITHOUT PROBLEM, SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

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OR SHOULD LATEST GOP MOVE PROVE TO BE ANOTHER STALL.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE ADVISED LOCAL BRANIFF OFFICIALS HERE OF GOP POSITION (THEY ARE ALREADY AWARE OF OVERTURES ON THE PART OF PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO HARDING LAWRENCE), AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SENIOR BRANIFF OFFICIAL OR TEAM COME TO PERU TO BEGIN TALKS ON APRIL 1 OR 2. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL BE

IN A POSITION TO ADVISE US OF DATE BY TOMORROW SO THAT
WE CAN INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER ACCORDINGLY BEFORE
BEGINNING OF LONG EASTER WEEKEND.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, DISPUTES, AIRLINES, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA02465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750105-1100
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750314/aaaaamlt.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 055582
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - DISPUTE WITH PERU - FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERS TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, PE, US, BRANIFF, (DE LA FLOR VALLE, MIGUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006